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D. Bell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Erik R. Thoen et al. Art Unit : 2881
Serial No. : 09/542,061 Examiner : J. Menefee
Filed : April 3, 2000
Title : SEMICONDUCTOR ELEMENTS FOR STABILIZING LASER OUTPUT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 20, 2001

In response to the office action, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 20 to read as follows:

a1
B

1. A laser system that produces radiation at an operative wavelength, the system defining a laser cavity, and the system comprising:
a mode-locking element configured to mode-lock output of the laser system; and
a semiconductor element that produces nonlinear increasing loss at the operative wavelength sufficient to enhance stability of the mode-locked output.

a2

20. A laser system that defines a laser cavity, the system comprising:
a pump;
a gain medium that produces radiation at an operative wavelength when pumped by the pump;
an element that actively mode-locks output of the laser system;

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